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DEC 22 2004

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MAILED

DEC 22 2004  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
TC 3600

In re Application of  
Byron Young  
Application No. 10/028,853  
Filed: December 21, 2001  
For: BAG/BED ASSEMBLY

DECISION ON PETITION  
TO WITHDRAW THE  
HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT

This is a decision on applicant's renewed petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181, filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, on October 26, 2004.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A review of the file record reveals that a Notice of Allowability and Notice of Allowance and Issue Fees Due (hereinafter "Notices") were mailed to applicant on January 12, 2004. Since the issue fee was not received before the expiration of the three-month statutory period for reply, the application was held abandoned, and a Notice to that effect was mailed on May 26, 2004.

Petitioner contends that the Notices were never received.

There is a strong presumption that Office communications properly addressed and delivered to the United States Postal Services, are in fact delivered to the addressee. An allegation that the Office communication was not received must be overcome by a showing that it was not received.

The showing required to establish non-receipt of an Office communication must include all of the following requirements:

- (1) A statement from the practitioner stating the Office communication was not received by the practitioner;
- (2) A statement attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office communication was not received; and
- (3) A copy of the docket record where the non-received Office communication would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement.

The docket records indicated above must include a copy of the list of all applications in petitioner's office having responses due on, or about, April 12, 2004. See Notice entitled "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received," 1156 O.G. 53 (November 16, 1993).

The renewed petition fails to adequately meet requirement (3) above. In this regard, petitioner has not provided a copy of a list of applications having responses due on or about April 12, 2004. Petitioner explains, that in "the instant case, a Notice of Allowance was not received by Applicant's practitioner and therefore no Record made or maintained in the (petitioner's) word processing file." And, that the "list of Records listed on the subject word processing file does not include a Record for Applicant, Bryon Young", because a "Notice of Allowance was not received by Applicant's practitioner and therefore a Record was not made as discussed above." However, without providing a copy of a docket record of the type described above, the evidence provided by applicant is insufficient to grant a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment.

Applicant may wish to consider filing a petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(a) (unavoidable delay) or 37 CFR 1.137(b) (unintentional delay) as discussed below.

#### I. Unavoidable Delay

A grantable petition to revive an abandoned application under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply (unless previously filed), which may be met by the filing of a continuing application in a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute; (2) the petition fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(l); and (3) an adequate showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable.

The showing requirement can be met by submission of statements of fact establishing that the delay in filing the reply was unavoidable. This includes a satisfactory showing that the cause of the delay resulting in failure to reply in a timely fashion to the Office action was unavoidable. Diligence during the time period between abandonment and filing of the petition to revive must also be shown.

As an alternative to filing a petition for unavoidable abandonment, a petition for revival of an application abandoned unintentionally under 37 CFR 1.137(b) might be appropriate.

#### II. Unintentional Delay

A grantable petition to revive an abandoned application under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply (unless previously filed), which may be met by the filing of a continuing application in a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute; (2) the petition fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(m); and (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional.

The petition fee required by law for filing a petition under unavoidable standard is \$500. The fee for a petition under the unintentional standard is \$1,500. If applicants have, or can qualify as a "small entity" and does so prior to or together with the payment of the fee, the fee will be one-half of the amount indicated.

If not previously filed, the reply to the outstanding Office action must accompany the petition to revive. The required items should be promptly submitted under a cover letter entitled "Petition to Revive."

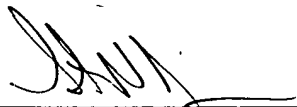
Further correspondence with respect to a petition to revive should be addressed as follows:

**By mail:** Mail Stop PETITION  
Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**By hand:** 2011 South Clark Place  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby  
Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

**By FAX:** (703) 872-9306  
ATTN: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the Office of Petitions Staff at (703) 305-9285.



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SNM/rwg: 12/14/04